What is claimed is:

1. A system for producing, maintaining, and controlling a virtual electrode for provision of an ablative therapy through the virtual electrode to a target tissue of a body of a patient, the system providing a conductive fluid and an RF power to the target tissue to create the virtual electrode, the system comprising:

a source of conductive fluid selectively providing conductive fluid to the target tissue;

a surgical instrument including an electrode for delivering RF power to distributed conductive fluid to create a virtual electrode;

a primary temperature sensor for sensing a temperature of the body of the patient in an area of the target tissue;

an impedance detector for measuring information indicative of an impedance of the body of the patient in the area of the target tissue to passage of RF current; and

a processor for determining a desired RF power applied by the electrode as Ablation_RF_Power = (max_RF_Power) * (proportional feedback + integral feedback + derivative feedback);

wherein max_RF_Power is a maximum power level determined as a function of the measured impedance, proportional feedback is a function of a proportion of the sensed temperature relative to a threshold temperature, integral feedback is a function of an integral of the sensed temperature relative to the threshold temperature, and derivative feedback is a function of a derivative of the sensed temperature relative to the threshold temperature.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor determines the desired RF power as Ablation_RF_Power = (max_RF_Power) * (Error_Proportion (n) * K_p + Error_Integral/K_i + Error_Derivative * K_d); wherein Error_Proportion (n) is the difference between the sensed temperature and the threshold temperature, K_p is a proportional gain constant, Error_Integral

is a function of a magnitude of the difference between the sensed temperature and the threshold temperature, K_i is an integral gain constant, Error_Derivative is a function of a rate of change of the difference between the sensed temperature and the threshold temperature, and K_d is a derivative gain constant.

3. A method for producing, maintaining, and controlling a virtual electrode for provision of an ablative therapy through the virtual electrode to a target tissue of a body of a patient by applying RF power to a conductive fluid distributed to the target tissue, the method comprising:

a. establishing a total time of RF power application to achieve desired ablation (t_{total});
b. distributing conductive fluid to the target tissue;
c. applying RF power to the distributed conductive fluid;
d. pausing application of the RF power; and
e. resuming application of RF power for a time period (t_{resume}) as a function of a difference between t_{total} and a time period during which RF power was applied prior to the step of pausing plus a correction factor.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the correction factor is $1.5t_{pause}$, wherein t_{pause} is a time period during which application of RF power was paused.

5. The method of claim 3, wherein the corrective factor is t_{reheat}, wherein t_{reheat} is a time period for the target tissue to reach a temperature approximating a temperature of the target tissue prior to the step of pausing application of RF power.